

the Gilroy Chamber of Commerce at the chamber's 43d Annual Meeting and Awards Dinner on February 2, 1996, in Gilroy, CA. It is an honor to join with the chamber in acknowledging Dr. Buchanan's many contributions.

Dr. Buchanan is best known for starting Gilroy's Christmas street ornament program over 20 years ago; a program that provides for the purchase, maintenance, and installation of the street pole decorations each year. Over the years, Dr. Buchanan has used the program to get residents involved in civic pride, enlisting participation from the Boy Scouts, for instance, to help youth to take an active interest in their city.

A two-term Gilroy City planning commissioner, Dr. Buchanan now serves as chair of the Citizens Committee, working on bike trails and sound wall planning. He has cochaired the Grants Committee of the Gilroy Foundation and played an active role in making the world famous Gilroy Garlic Festival a success year after year.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Dr. Philip Buchanan as he is honored and invite my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in saluting Dr. Buchanan for his efforts.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE WARD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 24, 1996

Mr. WARD. Mr. Speaker, on January 23, 1996, I was unavoidably detained due to changes in my air travel, which were out of my control, and missed three rollcall votes. I would like the record to show that had I been present for rollcall vote No. 13, on H.R. 2657, the Ruth & Billy Graham Congressional Gold Medal bill, I would have voted "yes." On rollcall vote No. 14, S. 1341, the Saddleback Mountain—Arizona Settlement bill, I would have voted "yes." And on rollcall vote No. 15, H.R. 2726, Technical Corrections to Native American Laws, I would have voted "yes."

TRIBUTE TO U.S. FEDERAL MARSHAL ROMOLO J. IMUNDI

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 24, 1996

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Federal Marshal Romolo J. Imundi. At the age of 75, Marshal Imundi has completed 53 consecutive years of Government service and retired from his post as U.S. marshal for the southern district in New York on October 15, 1995.

Mr. Imundi was a highly respected marshal in New York and has received numerous awards and plaques during his long and distinguished career in law enforcement. For 13 years, Mr. Imundi's office has been responsible for the security of 80 Federal judges, 200 U.S. attorneys, 80 security officers, 100 marshals and inspectors, and dozens of crime suspects. In recognition of his unfailing dedication to his work, I am inserting an article into

the RECORD detailing his years of public service.

The suspects he has escorted have been some of the most famous and notorious this century, Sheik Omar Abdel-Rahman—found guilty of plotting the bombing of national monuments such as the Statue of Liberty—and those accused of plotting the World Trade Center bombing. Not a single one of his clients has been injured or harmed in any way during his protection, to say nothing of all the innocent lives he has helped to save during the course of his impeccable career.

The southern district of New York is losing a marshal greatly respected by all people. He brought to his post, his 32 years of experience in the New York Police Force and 8 years as an investigator for the U.S. Veterans Administration. He was first appointed Federal marshal by President Ronald Reagan and served under Presidents George Bush and Bill Clinton, giving him the distinction of being the longest-serving Federal marshal this century. His record in public office has been an inspiration to his colleagues as well as the community as a whole.

Mr. Imundi's well-deserved retirement will sadden all those who gained so much from his time in office: not just the citizens of New York but all the people of the United States. On January 30, 1996, there will be an event honoring Mr. Imundi's years of service and dedication to law enforcement and justice. Mr. Speaker, I know you will join me in wishing Mr. Imundi well and the best of luck in his retirement.

GLADIATOR RETIRES AFTER HALF-CENTURY OF SERVICE

Wyatt Earp and Bat Masterson may have been the most famous federal marshals.

Romolo J. Imundi may be the most photographed.

"I'm also the longest-serving federal marshal in this century," Imundi said.

He retired Oct. 15 from his job as U.S. marshal for the Southern District in New York after 13 years in the post. He was appointed by President Reagan in 1982.

At 75, Imundi completed 53 years of government service, including 32 years as a New York City police officer and detective, eight years as an investigator for the U.S. Veterans Administration and the past 13 as a federal marshal in the Manhattan office.

Imundi and his wife of 48 years, Rosemarie, who have four grown children and eight grandchildren, have lived in the Crestwood section of Yonkers the past eight years.

"This job is a presidential appointment," Imundi said. "George Washington appointed the first federal marshal in New York City in 1789. He was the chief lawman for the area. I'm a conservative Republican. I was appointed by Reagan and reappointed by George Bush. When Bill Clinton came in, I was asked to stay on the job."

Imundi, nicknamed the "Roman gladiator," often was seen in newspaper photographs and on television as he escorted such suspects as Leona Helmsley, Bess Myerson, mobster "Fat Tony" Salerno, Michael Milken, Mafia boss Paul Castellano and Imelda Marcos into federal court.

His last case was completed earlier this month when Sheik Omar Abdel-Rahman was convicted of plotting the bombing of the Lincoln Tunnel, the United Nations, the Holland Tunnel and the Statue of Liberty.

"Imagine what would have happened if they blew up a tunnel, and you had water cascading all over Manhattan," he said. "It is too horrible to even think about."

The sheik and his followers were moved each day from the Metropolitan Corrections

Center underground to the federal courts for their trial. All were found guilty and will be sentenced in January.

"I think they will all spend the rest of their natural lives in jail," Imundi said.

They were not subject to the death penalty. Imundi has witnessed one execution, the electrocution of murderer Elmer "Trigger" Burke in Sing Sing Correctional Facility 40 years ago.

For 13 years, Imundi's office has been responsible for the security of 80 federal judges, 200 U.S. attorney, 80 security officers, 100 marshals and inspectors and dozens of crime suspects.

He never had a client injured or killed in all that time, although junk-bond king Milken fainted after Judge Kimba Wood sentenced him to 10 years in prison.

Former Miss America Myerson, charged with a tax violation, was close to fainting when she was in a cell and was told she had to be fingerprinted.

"I put a hand on her shoulder and steadied her," he said.

Helmsley, who served three years in prison on a tax charge, was one of his most difficult cases.

"She was so disliked that many people stood on the courthouse steps and screamed obscenities at her every day of the trial," he said.

"The terrorist trial was clearly the trial of the century, not that thing in Los Angeles," he said. "Millions of lives were at stake here when these guys plotted their violence. Judge Michael B. Mukasey really did a great job of handling that. He had to deal daily with 15 lawyers and kept * * *."

Imundi, who handled the suspects in the World Trade Center bombing case, said that crime really frightened him.

"Few people know this, but if that bomb was planted two stories higher and not in the garage, that entire building would have gone down," he said. "It would have dwarfed the bombing at Oklahoma City and thousands upon thousands of lives would have been lost."

Now, the care and feeding of so many suspects has been turned over to a new marshal—Martin Burke, a bodyguard for former Gov. Mario Cuomo.

"Now, I'll just take it easy for a while, do some painting, work around the house, tend to my garden, and enjoy our family," Imundi said.

Few public servants have done as much to earn a quiet, peaceful retirement as Imundi has. Few have had a half-century of such adventures.

PRESERVING AMERICA'S MIDDLE CLASS

HON. ROBERT G. TORRICELLI

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 24, 1996

Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. Speaker, I am inserting for the RECORD an opinion piece I wrote concerning the need to take action to preserve the American middle class:

PRESERVING AMERICA'S MIDDLE CLASS

(By Congressman Robert Torricelli)

Some 50 years ago president Harry Truman asked his assembled economic advisors for their interpretation of his economic policies. The economy was faltering, and he needed answers. They told him on the one hand what was right, and on the other hand what was wrong. Harry Truman said that what he needed was more one-handed economists.